

The Old Stone Wall

E-Newsletter of the NH Division of Historical Resources

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Moose Plates fund preservation and restoration



The N.H. Conservation License Plate (Moose Plate) program supports the protection of critical resources in New Hampshire, including historical properties and artifacts. Revenues from the sale of Moose Plates are distributed to several state agencies, including the N.H. Department of Cultural Resources which allots a portion of those funds to the Division of Historical Resources (DHR). The DHR then awards grants through the Moose Plate program, for a maximum of \$10,000, for the preservation of publicly-owned historical properties. Since 2001, an interesting variety of properties and projects have benefited from the sale of Moose Plates.



In 2012, the Town of Wolfeboro was awarded a \$10,000 grant toward the restoration of the clock face on Brewster Memorial Hall. The 101 foot tall clock tower appears to be original to the 1888 Romanesque Revival style building, with painting

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The DHR is a state resource agency, supported by the State of New Hampshire, by the federal Historic Preservation Fund (through a matching grant administered by the National Park Service of the US Department of the Interior), and by donated funds and services. In addition to its state functions, the DHR is also responsible for administering the federal preservation program in New Hampshire.

and re-gilding documented back to 1910.

The Moose Plate grant allowed for the repair and painting of the bezel molding and lower corners of the clock face as well as new numerals and clock hands constructed to match the original design by E. Howard. The town hired noted clock repairer Phil D'Avanza from Goffstown to bring the clock back to life. Four clock faces were constructed from African mahogany to match the original; new numbers were fabricated and secured with brass screws; new hands were fabricated and gilded in 23k gold leaf.

The other projects funded through the 2012 Conservation License Plate grant program include:

Gregg Free Library (Wilton): Rehabilitation of fanlight, transom and storm windows and custom-made screen doors in front entry of this Beaux Arts style library.

Stark Park (Manchester): Repair and restoration of hand-forged wrought iron fence and cement curbing around the grave site of General John Stark.

Bow Bog Meeting House (Bow): Restoration of three 20-over-20 pane windows, one 12-over-12 pane window and four sills as the first part of a multi-phased rehabilitation of the building.

Allenstown Meeting House (Allenstown): Replacement of the ceiling of the meeting room as part of the final phase of a multi-year restoration project.

Town Hall (Fitzwilliam): Repair of sixty-five historic wooden benches in the town hall.

Announcement of the 2013 Conservation Plate recipients will take place in the early fall.

Historic Preservation Program at PSU reaches milestone

On November 2, 2013, at the National Trust Conference in Indianapolis, the new Masters degree program in Historic Preservation at Plymouth State University will be inducted into the National Conference for Historic Preservation (NCPE). Created in 1980, NCPE is a membership organization committed to developing and improving historic preservation education throughout the country. Since 1980, it has set a high standard as to what the mission, content and objectives an academic program should be in order to attain membership. Plymouth's program is now one of 32 Masters degree programs from throughout the country to achieve membership. For more information, visit <http://www.plymouth.edu/graduate/academics/degrees/masters/ma/historic-preservation/>.

N.H. State Historical Resources Council welcomes two new members

On July 24, 2013 the Governor and Executive Council confirmed the appointments of Tim Sappington of Randolph and Robert B. Stephenson of Jaffrey to the N.H. State Historical Resources Council. The membership of the Council consists of the Governor or her designee; the director of historical resources (both non-voting members), and nine voting members of the public, who are appointed by the Governor and Executive Council. The State Historical Resources Council advises and supports the Division of Historical Resources in a number of ways and approves all listings to the National Register of Historic Places and the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places.

Tim Sappington, who has been practicing architecture in the North Country since 1981, has been extensively involved with rehabilitation projects involving historic structures. He led the effort to list St. Kieran's Parish Church in Berlin to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places and to adaptively reuse it as a performance center. Tim has served as the vice president of the Gorham Historical Society for twenty-five years.

Robert Stephenson's experience in the field of historic preservation includes a dozen years on the Jaffrey Historic District Commission, the authorship of numerous publications relating to preservation and local history, the creation of several databases of Jaffrey's historic sites and cemeteries as well as the JaffreyHistory.org website. He has also been the caretaker of the Jaffrey Meetinghouse.

Three properties added to the State Register

The State Historical Resources Council is pleased to announce that three more properties have been added to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places. The most recent additions are:

Located in **Franconia**, "Sam's House" is a simple one-room dwelling built by Sam Eli, an immigrant who worked as a logger throughout the mid-20th century. While the architectural features of the building itself are not significant, it provides a physical representation of the lives led by an historically important community in the northern forest, itinerant loggers and woodsmen.

The Masonic Hall in **Freedom** was constructed in 1830 as a church building. After the congregation found a new home, the local Masonic Temple purchased the building in 1926 and created a two-story space with a meeting hall on the second floor and a community gathering space and kitchen on the ground floor. The building has continued to be a central part of community life ever since.

The Colonel Ebenezer Hinsdale House, located in **Hinsdale**, was built 20 rods from the original Fort Hinsdale in 1759; timbers from the fort were used in the construction of the ell off the kitchen. The location of the house, its outbuildings, gardens, landscaping and setting remain much as they have for several generations.

For more information about the New Hampshire State Register, visit the N.H. Division of Historical Resources website at: www.nh.gov/nhdhr.

Summer field school collects data on four new sites: SCRAP update

From June 24 through August 2, more than forty volunteers participated in the annual State Conservation and Rescue Archaeology Program (SCRAP) summer field school. Dr. Richard Boisvert, State Archaeologist, oversaw the crew during three two-week sessions based in Hillsborough, N.H. at Fox State Forest.

The 2013 field school surveyed and evaluated unexplored prehistoric sites in southwestern New Hampshire; previous summer programs have concentrated on sites in northern New Hampshire. In addition to archaeologically sensitive areas within Fox State Forest, the SCRAP team visited sites in Peterborough, Salisbury and Goshen. The artifacts gathered at these sites ranged from Late Paleoindian (circa 9500 years old) to historic (circa 500 years old).

One of the most interesting features discovered was a shallow basin pecked into a large glacial boulder. Although no artifacts were found in the immediate vicinity of the feature, similar basins have been documented around the state.



The Division of Historical Resources wishes to give special thanks to Inge Seaboyer of the N.H. Division of Forests and Lands for her assistance with the survey and for arranging for the use of facilities at Fox State Forest.

All Books Great and Small Recommendations from the DHR Staff



Window Preservation Standards; John Leeke (editor); Window Preservation Standards Collaborative, 2013.

Elaine Loft, who oversees the research library at the N.H. Division of Historical Resources, just purchased this book for the DHR and recommends it for those faced with the dilemmas of old windows.

The N.H. Division of Historical Resources often receives inquiries about historic windows. Many people think old windows can never be made energy efficient and should be replaced. In fact, a properly maintained old window with an appropriate storm window is as effective and

longer-lasting than a replacement window. This new book addresses specific methods for the assessment, maintenance, repair, preservation and weatherization of older and historic windows. There are numerous illustrations and the methods presented are up to date and represent the current best practices in the field.

Learn more about preservation programs

To learn more about historic preservation programs and activities on the horizon, visit the [News and Events Page](#) of the N.H. Division of Historical Resources, the [NH Preservation Alliance Events web site](#), the [Association of Historical Societies of New Hampshire E-ssociate](#), and the "history" section of [nh365.org](#). Also visit [PreservationDirectory.com](#), a national portal with links to a wide and expanding range of preservation events, sources and resources.

[Staff](#) of the NH Division of Historical Resources prepared this newsletter, edited by Elaine P. Loft.

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